

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method of making a multi-piece solid golf ball comprising the steps of:

(a) molding a rubber composition for a center in a spherical shape to form an unvulcanized center,

(b) placing a rubber composition for a core outer layer in a mold having a semi-spherical cavity, and either semi-vulcanizing the rubber composition or heating the rubber composition to such a degree that the rubber composition neither semi-vulcanizes nor shrinks between the semi-spherical cavity and a male plug mold to form a semi-vulcanized or unvulcanized semi-spherical half-shell for the core outer layer,

(c) after removing the male plug mold, mounting the unvulcanized center formed in the step (a) on a concave portion of the semi-vulcanized or unvulcanized semi-spherical half-shell for the core outer layer, and covering the unvulcanized center with a semi-vulcanized or unvulcanized semi-spherical half-shell for the core outer layer separately formed in the same manner as set forth in the step (b) to integrally vulcanize,

(d) optionally, repeating the step (c) to form a core, and

(e) covering the core with a cover, wherein the rubber composition for the core outer layer does not contain a zinc salt of unsaturated carboxylic acid.

2. (New) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the core outer layer contains 100 parts by weight of a base rubber of which not less than 80% by weight is polybutadiene rubber containing a cis-1, 4 bond of not less than 80%, and 5 to 50 parts by weight of a metal salt other than a zinc salt of an unsaturated carboxylic acid or ester of an unsaturated carboxylic acid.

3. (New) The method according to Claim 2, wherein the core outer layer is less than 50% by volume based on a total volume of the core.

4. (New) The method according to Claim 2, wherein the metal salt of an unsaturated carboxylic acid is a magnesium salt of an unsaturated carboxylic acid.

5. (New) The method of making a multi-piece solid golf ball according to Claim 1 comprising the step of:

- (a) molding a rubber composition for a center in a spherical shape to form an unvulcanized center, wherein the center contains a zinc salt of unsaturated carboxylic acid or ester of an unsaturated carboxylic acid.

6. (New) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the core is composed of a center and at least one core outer layer formed on the center, and a cover covering the core, wherein the core outer layer is formed from a rubber composition which contains a metal salt of an unsaturated carboxylic acid, wherein said metal is selected from the group consisting of sodium, magnesium, tin, titanium, and zirconium.